



Frequently Asked Questions
City Proposal I on November 3, 2015, Election Ballot

What is City Proposal I?

City Proposal I is a ballot proposal which has been placed on the November 3, 2015, Election ballot by the City Commission asking the electors of the City of Traverse City for the approval of a conservation easement on parkland. The Proposal reads as follows:

“Should the City be authorized to place a conservation easement on parkland adjacent to Silver Drive between East Silver Lake Road and 11th Street for the purpose of maintaining the parkland in its natural and undeveloped condition in perpetuity?”

Yes:_____ No:_____

What is a conservation easement?

A conservation easement is a property interest conveyed to the State of Michigan, in this case to protect wetlands. It requires the City to maintain the property in a natural and undeveloped condition.

Why is a conservation easement necessary?

When the City constructed Silver Drive and the trail that runs alongside of it, some wetlands were impacted. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality issued a permit for construction, which required the City to perform wetland mitigation and preservation. One of the permit requirements was the granting of a conservation easement.

Why is the City asking for permission to grant a conservation easement?

The property in question is City parkland. The City Charter requires permission of the electorate for disposal of an interest in parkland, such as an easement. This is true even if the easement is for the purpose of protecting the parkland in a natural and undeveloped state, as in a conservation easement.

How long will the conservation easement be in effect, if approved?

The conservation easement would be in effect indefinitely and would require the City to maintain the property in its natural and undeveloped condition forever.

How will a conservation easement affect the property?

The conservation easement will not affect the property other than to prevent it from being developed.

Where is the proposed conservation easement located?

The easement would be located along Silver Drive just north of Silver Lake Road. See map below for general location.

